

INNER DEFENSE PROBLEM CONFRONTING GEORGE GIBSON

Pirates Have Strong Outfield and a Good Staff of Pitchers

Left Side of Infield Is New Chief's Main Worry

TEAM IS DANGEROUS

Buccaneers to Be in Race if Infield Holds Up; Much Class in Outfield

NEW YORK, March 9.—Look out for the Pirates, now more than ever. Some years ago, when Fred Ladd's grand-slam team was a factor to be considered in National league pennant races, this was a familiar cry around the old circuit.

But the Pirates, at 19 odd years ago, are but a fond memory in Smokies now, more than ever. Look out for the presence of only two names that were identified with the Pittsburgh champions of 1929—the smiling visage of George "Mooney" Gibson, the new manager of the team, and the veteran Hale Adams, Clarke, Wagner, Leach, Hyatt, Lawer, Caminiti, Leisfeld, Phillips and the others have passed along.

For a good many years the Pirates, like all other various nationalities, tried to build up another pennant-winning team to no avail. The Pirates have come, looked and have been conquered.

FEARED THIS YEAR. But 1929 is another year. And once again the old familiar warning—"Look out for the Pirates"—is being heard around the National league.

Stepping into the shoes left vacant by Hugo Bezdek, who really did much to put the Pittsburgh club into the Pittsburgh class and whose efforts will always beuring, George Gibson has inherited a ball club that at this early time looks to be a certain contender for the National league pennant.

The Pirates are not a sensational outfit. It isn't that. But they have a whole lot of class, particularly in pitching and in the outfield, and that looks like a plus. In other words, the Pirates appear to have the stuff in them, and their chances depend on whether or not "Mooney" Gibson can bring it out.

The squad Gibson has in training at Hot Springs, Ark., is not the biggest squad in the land of Dixie, but from that distance it looks like a mighty promising one.

Our Best Outfield.

The Pirate outfit, with the great Max Carey, the agile hard-hitting Billy Southworth and George White, and Casey Stengel, two players of sterling quality, is one of the best in the National league—a better outfit, for instance, than Chicago can boast of.

The pitching staff, headed by Conner, one of the best southpaws in the business, is a staff of undoubted class, and there is apparently a bit of latent ability here, too. The veteran Babe Adams, a remarkable come back; Earl Hamilton, who may or may not be affected by the ban on pitching freaks, but who is nevertheless a good pitcher; Fred Miller, Harold Clegg, Charlie Parker, and C. P. Hill will bear up the burden of neaving the pill for the Smoketown gang. J. H. Whisen, a youngster secured by the Pirates late last summer, and Frank Herbst, another youthful twirler, recently purchased from Waterbury, are good pitching prospects. To say the least, Pittsburgh is plentifully supplied with pitching talent.

Walter Schmidt, one of the best catchers in the National league to day, will do the bulk of the work behind the bat. He is a catcher of the Barbers-Schmidt-Schmidt-Schmidt variety, a fellow who can catch like a son, without letting his playing go. Schmidt is the one-man catching staff of the Buccos. His assistant is the veteran "Ned" Clarke, who has been knocking around in baseball for many years. Then, too, Gibson himself could go in there and work if necessary.

Like Clark Griffith, Gibson's prob-

Tulsa Bowlers Are Entered in A. B. C. at Peoria Next Week

Tulsa business men have made possible the outcome of a localizing team in the American Bowling Congress at Peoria, next month.

A Minneapolis—Pittsburgh sponsored Tulsa team Murphy is to enter before its six rounds.

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